**Liisa Eyerly Long Bio – 400 to 600 words**

How does an author’s writing journey begin? I imagine the answers are infinite. From best-sellers to personal journals, authors tread paths as distinct as their novels, short stories, autobiographies, devotions, poetry, plays, news reports, social media pages, blogs, and letters. Here’s a bit about mine.

 **About me:**

I grew up in Oregon, Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Montana. Yep, some of the most spectacular places on earth. My passion for exploring and connecting with new people started young. I attended college in Bozeman and graduated with a B.S. in elementary education from Montana State Billings – called Eastern way back then. That is where I met my husband. My publishing career began after getting married, teaching in Iowa, raising three children, opening a small business, closing my small business, obtaining my M.A. from the University of Wisconsin Superior, and working as a school librarian/media specialist. I’m now retired but will never retire from kindling the thrill of reading in all ages.

**Having Fun:** **I enjoy**

* pickleball and tennis, which in Wisconsin means playing in 30-degree weather with snowflakes flitting around
* Kayaking on smooth waters
* playing with our Border Terrier
* working with stained glass (when there is time)
* reading (even when there is not time)
* traveling to visit friends, family, my children, and grandchildren (there is always time)

**My Writing Journey:**

As a child, I read Nancy Drew mysteries with a flashlight into the early morning hours, then graduated to Agatha Christie and have never looked back.

My organized and structured writing began when I was teaching. I took a couple of classes on how to teach writing and began experimenting with my creations. I started a mystery romance novel and submitted a couple of children’s tales and a short story. After a few surprising rejections, I did not regroup, and my writing dropped off. But the nagging drive to write did not stop. It woke me up in the middle of the night, interrupted family vacations, and siphoned money for workshops, writing books, writer’s conventions, and writer’s digest subscriptions.

Fast-forward to my children graduating. I got serious about my stories and concentrated on a mystery novel. I collected the notes I had jotted down over the years, gathered the how-to writing books I’d been reading, and began researching in earnest for my book. I am now the author of 2 mystery novels and counting, set in the ancient city of Ephesus.

*Obedient unto Death* started as a question, actually many questions. When did the Apostles die? What was going on in the early Christian church after the Apostles died? I was curious about Paul’s descriptions of power struggles within the church and what kind of people would risk torture to defy the Roman Empire? Answers led to more questions and ultimately to my novel.

**My Faith Journey:**

Since childhood, my faith has grown due to my questions and the answers I have received. The foundational response demonstrated time and again is “God is faithful.” Ask, and you shall receive. He has answered my myriad of questions through reading His Word, Bible studies, meditations, listening to sermons, reading about Christians’ suffering and perseverance, my life circumstances, and answered prayers. Some answers astound like the ending of a great novel, and others delight with a subtle insight that builds over the years. Think about a favorite Bible verse that unveils new layers of wisdom with each reading.

Humans are inquirers, and I have found God is the ultimate answer. May your faith journey amaze you with revelations of God’s love, mercy, and faithfulness.

I would love to speak to your group. Possible topics include:

**Researching *Obedient unto Death,***

* Christianity and the early church
* Ephesus and Roman culture around 96 AD/CD
* Pagans, Jews, and Christians

**Book club discussion**

* *Obedient unto Death* Question and Answer session
* Research and inspiration
* Weaving plots and subplots
* Probing a character’s hidden needs?

**Mini writing workshop**

* What I learned about writing a novel
* Novel plotting basics
* Penning a short outline, bring your ideas.

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